SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

LONDON: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 1920.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
British Medical Association.	
CURRENT NOTES:	
THE ARBITRATION	33
THE BATTLE OF THE LODGES IN VICTORIA	33
MEETINGS OF BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS	33
ASSOCIATION NOTICES:	
MEETING OF COUNCIL	34
BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD	34
NAVAL AND MILITARY APPOINTMENTS	34
ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE	35
INSURANCE—CORRESPONDENCE:	
THE PROFESSION AND ARBITRATION	35
REMUNERATION AND RURAL PRACTICE	35
THE NEW REGULATIONS IN RURAL PRACTICE	3
TRANSFER OF PRACTICES	36
APPOINTMENTS	36
DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES	36

British Medical Association.

CURRENT NOTES.

The Arbitration.

DRS. BRACKENBURY, DAIN, and COX, representing the Insurance Acts Committee, met the representatives of the Ministry of Health before the Board of Arbitrators on Friday, February 6th, to discuss the question of procedure. All the members of the Board were present. The Chairman, Mr. F. Gore-Browne, K.C., decided that the statement of the Insurance Acts Committee should be received by the Board and by the Ministry of Health not later than February 14th; that the Minister of Health's reply should be sent to the Board and to the Insurance Acts Committee by February 23rd; that the arbitration should commence on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 11.15 a.m.; and that the dates of future hearings, if any, should be fixed that day. The Executive Subcommittee of the Insurance Acts Committee met on February 10th, and considered the documents which it is proposed to submit in support of the case for the profession. These documents and the reply of the Ministry will be published in due course, together with an agreed report of the proceedings.

The Battle of the Lodges in Victoria.

In the JOURNAL of December 27th, 1919, p. 854, there was a note upon the latest phase of the long-drawn-out contest between the medical profession in Victoria and the friendly societies (or lodges) in that State. It appeared that an emissary of the lodges was then on his way to this country with the object of finding a hundred doctors to act as medical officers, and that the officials of friendly societies and "medical institutes" were pressing the Legislature to sanction the appointment of whole-time State or municipal medical officers, whose duties would include attendance upon friendly society members. In the SUPPLEMENT of the same date we printed a letter from the officers of the Victorian Branch of the British Medical Association giving the history of the controversy forced upon the medical profession in Victoria by a combination of the friendly societies and the State. The letter ended by asking the aid of the Central Council of the Association in preventing as far as possible "any influx of medical practitioners from England to these institutes, which are solely for commercially exploiting the labours of the medical men." In accordance with this request steps were at once taken by the Head Office to put medical men on their guard. Announcements have been inserted in the newspapers advising doctors before accepting any medical posts in Australia to apply for information to the Medical Secretary. As we said in a Current Note on January 10th, the loyalty and solidarity of the members of the Victorian Branch have been well shown throughout this struggle; and they may be sure that the Association in this country will stand by them. In the *Medical Journal of Australia* for December 13th, 1919, there is a leading article reviewing the situation and expressing the hope that medical practitioners in Great Britain may be made aware of the history of the events, so that no one will accept the position of medical officer to one of the medical institutes in ignorance of all the facts. We think that all who have followed what has appeared lately in these columns must now understand what is at issue between our colleagues in Victoria on the one side and the lodge officials, abetted by some politicians, on the other.

Meetings of Branches and Divisions.

WILTSHIRE BRANCH.

A GENERAL meeting of the Branch, to which all non-members in the county were invited, was held at Trowbridge on January 25th, when the President, Dr. KEMPE, was in the chair.

The SECRETARY announced that he had sent a copy of the resolution passed at the last meeting regarding rates for medical attendance (SUPPLEMENT, October 18th, 1919, p. 86) to all club secretaries whose names he had received, and that it would be necessary to call another Branch meeting as soon as the National Insurance remuneration was fixed. The question of the minimum fee for examination of new members was deferred until that meeting.

A letter from the Medical Secretary was read urging Divisions to raise private fees at least 50 per cent. over pre-war rates. It was resolved:

> That the medical men practising in the county of Wilts, at a meeting in Trowbridge, resolved to increase their fees at least 50 per cent. over pre-war rates.

An announcement to that effect was directed to be published in the local press.

Dr. LOCKET announced that the Government's offer for attendance under the National Insurance Acts was 11s. capitation fee, 2s. dispensing fee, and a mileage fund of £300,000. He stated that the Insurance Acts Committee had refused the offer and proposed arbitration, which the Government had accepted. A general discussion followed, and it was resolved:

> That this meeting endorses the action of the Insurance Acts Committee, and thanks them for the large amount of work they have done on behalf of the profession.

Dr. FLEMMING briefly explained the need for maternity hospitals in the county, and the necessity that they should be under the control of the medical men. It was agreed that the report drawn up by the committee appointed at the annual meeting on June 21st, 1919, be circulated to medical men, and that they be asked to arrange public meetings to interest the public in the proposal.

WILTSHIRE BRANCH: TROWBRIDGE DIVISION.

A MEETING of the Division was held at Trowbridge on January 25th, when Dr. LAURENCE was in the chair. The question of raising fees for private practice was referred to the Branch.

Dr. STEELE (Devizes) produced a scale of fees paid to divisional police surgeons, showing that the fee paid for examination of recruits was 2s. 6d. The meeting considered this fee inadequate, and the secretary was instructed to forward the scale of fees to the Medical Secretary.

The revised ethical rules, as approved by the Annual Representative Meeting, 1919, were adopted.

Association Notices.

MEETING OF COUNCIL.

THE next Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, February 18th, in the Council Room, 429, Strand, London, W.C. 2., at 10 a.m.

BRANCH AND DIVISION MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.—Drs. John Stevens and John Eason, Honorary Secretaries, give notice that the Winter Clinical Meeting of the Edinburgh Branch will be held in the Royal Infirmary, on Friday, February 27th. All members of the profession are cordially invited. The Museum will be open from 11 a.m. Special Clinics will be held during the forenoon, and the Clinical Meeting at 3.15 p.m. At 5 p.m. Dr. Alexander Blackhall-Morison (London) will lecture on The Passive Mechanical Factor in Heart Disease: its Influence and Management. Dinner at 6.30 p.m. in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians, 9, Queen Street; morning dress; dinner ticket, 10s. 6d. Members of the Branch are requested to notify, not later than February 23rd, whether or not they intend to be present.

Naval and Military Appointments.

ROYAL NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE following notifications are announced by the Admiralty:—Surgeon Lieutenant Commander G. R. McCowen, O.B.E., to the *Excellent*, additional, for duty at Whale Island, and in Gas School on relief. Surgeon Lieutenant H. L. Douglas to R.N. Hospital, Chatham. Surgeon Lieutenants (temporary) H. M. Scott to the *Erin*; H. A. L. Guthrie, A. M. McCallum, J. R. Brennan, E. S. Mellor, and T. N. D'Arcy, transferred to the permanent list as Surgeon Lieutenant.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Lieut.-Colonel G. S. Crawford, C.M.G., retires on retired pay.

Major and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel E. Ryan, C.M.G., D.S.O., to be acting Lieut.-Colonel from April 15th to October 28th, 1919.

Major M. G. Dill retires on retired pay.

The following Majors relinquish the acting rank of Lieut.-Colonel: G. R. Painton, (Brevet Lieut.-Colonel) C. W. Holden, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Major W. Ryam, O.B.E., to be temporary Lieutenant-Colonel whilst specially employed.

To be Majors: Captains and Brevet Majors H. H. Blake, O.B.E., A. Shepherd, A. E. G. Fraser. Captains (acting Majors) F. Worthington, D.S.O., O.B.E., J. W. Houston, D.S.O., S. G. Walker, A. L. Foster, A. G. Wells, D.S.O., C. McQueen, M.C. Captains F. R. Coppinger, O.B.E., A. C. Hammond-Searle, M.C., J. E. Ellcome, G. J. Keane, D.S.O., R. M. Dickson, O.B.E., A. L. Stevenson, B. Varvill, M.C., W. J. Dunn, O.B.E., F. B. Dalgleish, C. E. L. Harding, C. M. Rigby, W. H. S. Burney, T. E. Eves, D.S.O., L. Murphy, D.S.O., A. H. T. Davis, J. S. McCombe, D.S.O., W. J. Tobin, R. O'Kelly.

Captain P. C. Field is restored to the establishment.

Captain J. E. Rusby, M.C., resigns his commission, June 20th, 1919 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, June 18th, 1919).

Temporary Captain A. Jones, D.S.O., M.C., relinquishes the acting rank of Lieut.-Colonel on ceasing to command a medical unit, November 12th, 1918 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, February 17th, 1919).

Temporary Captains relinquish the acting rank of Major: P. J. Lane, M.C., D. B. Pascall, M.C., W. H. Alderton.

Temporary Captain J. E. Thompson to be acting Major.

The following Captains resign their commissions: J. W. O'Brien, M.C., W. Moodie.

The following Captains are seconded for service with the Colonial Office: C. D. M. Buckley, M.C., W. C. Hartgill, M.C., T. J. L. Thompson, M.C.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain, acting Major) J. La F. Lauder, D.S.O., M.C., to be Captain, February 8th, 1918, and to retain his acting rank (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, March 3rd, 1919).

Lieutenants (temporary Captains) to be Captains: C. O. J. Young, M.C., R. N. Phease, C. B. C. Anderson, P. E. D. Pank, G. Moulson, W. J. F. Craig.

Temporary Lieutenant H. Abernethy to be temporary Captain.

The following officers have relinquished their commissions:—Temporary Majors and retain the rank of Major: A. T. Duka, D.S.O., E. Swainston (on ceasing to be employed at the Brook War Hospital), W. Pearson (on ceasing to be employed at the Graylingwell War Hospital). Temporary Captain and Brevet Major R. Bruce-Low and retains the brevet rank of Major. Temporary Captain A. Jones, D.S.O., M.C., and is granted the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, November 15th, 1918 (substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, November 30th, 1918). Temporary Captain (acting Major) H. B. G. Russell, and is granted the rank of Major. Temporary Captain M. Murphy, M.C. (on transfer to the I.M.S.). Temporary Captains and retain the rank of Captain: E. N. Glover, O.B.E., J. W. Robertson, M. J. Murray, J. D. Doherty, W. G. Macdonald, M.C., R. F. Lunn, A. S. Morley, C. R. Smith, S. W. Allworthy, A. H. D. Smith, M.C., H. W. Bennett, F. O'B. Ellison, J. R. O'Brien, W. J. Oliver, C. F. Constant (on account of ill health), A. V. Dill, W. Murphy, A. E. Clarke, H. F. Penman, A. M. Malcolmson, A. Trower, H. W. Hay, H. Coppock, H. A. Richards, G. Millar, M.C., J. A. F. Hatch. Temporary honorary Captains and retain the honorary rank of Captain: A. H. Good, J. V. Ricci.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

MEDICAL BRANCH.

Captain F. C. Kempson to be acting Major whilst employed as Major.

Flight Lieutenant A. S. Glynn to be acting Squadron Leader whilst employed as Squadron Leader.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of November 26th, 1918, concerning Captain C. Salkeld is cancelled.

Transferred to unemployed list: Captains W. Enraght, J. E. Lascelles (May 14th, 1919, substituted for notification in the *London Gazette* of January 6th), H. W. Pigeon, C. R. M. Pattison, J. Souter. S. R. E. Davies, T. C. Backhouse.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Lieut.-Colonel L. J. M. Deas has been posted as Residency Surgeon, Jaipur, with effect from October 25th, 1919.

Major-General P. Hehir, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., M D., has been permitted to retire from the service with effect from December 8th, 1919.

J. R. Kochhar has been permanently appointed to the service with effect from March 17th, 1919, and promoted to the rank of Captain with effect from September 16th, 1919.

SPECIAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Captain E. M. Cowell, D.S.O., relinquishes the acting rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of December 2nd, 1919, regarding the relinquishment of the acting rank of Major by Captain Arthur F. L. Shields is cancelled.

The following Captains relinquish the acting rank of Major: D. Dougal, M.C., K. K. Drury, M.C., H. W. Hills, M. J. B. F. Burke-Kennedy, T. McEwen, M.C., K. W. Lewis, E. R. Lovell.

The following Captains relinquish their commissions and are granted the rank of Major: On account of ill health contracted on active service: M. W. Ruthven, H. C. Rook. On account of ill health caused by wounds: T. Lindsay, T. McEwen, M.C., A. G. S. Wallace, M.C.

The following Captains relinquish their commissions and retain the rank of Captain: G. E. Shand, W. C. Davidson, J. C. A. McCalden, R. Stewart, F. Balkwill, T. G. James, J. R. Cox, H. E. Bamber, W. Feldman. On account of ill health contracted on active service: N., S. R. Lorraine, J. Taylor, R. F. Pinson, N. H. Harrison, J. Y. McLean, A. A. Fyffe, J. J. Landers, P. V. Anderson. On account of ill health caused by wounds: T. W. Wylie, M.C., R. A. Stewart, M.C., S. D. G. McEntire, P. MacCallum, M.C., J. R. John. On account of ill health: J. P. Charnock, J. P. Broom, H. M. Wharry, E. D. Roberts, H. J. Rice, M.C., D. M. Jones, W. H. Duff.

Captain J. F. W. Meenan to be acting Major from January 15th to March 11th, 1919.

Captain I. Braun relinquishes his commission.

The notification in the *London Gazette* of December 2nd, 1919, regarding Captain Thomas C. Storey, M.C., is cancelled.

GENERAL RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

Late Captains R.A.M.C. to be Captain: John E. Rusby, M.C. (June 20th, 1919, substituted for notification in the *London Gazette*, June 18th, 1919), J. W. O'Brien, M.C., W. Moodie.

OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL CORPS.

Temporary Major H. C. Baker, O.B.E., relinquishes his commission on completion of service, and retains the rank of Major.

Temporary Captain A. G. Forbes, M.C., relinquishes his commission on ceasing to be employed, and retains the rank of Captain.

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT.

Surgeon Captain A. G. Curphey, M.C., relinquishes his commission, and retains the rank of Surgeon Captain.

VOLUNTEER FORCE.

The following temporary Majors relinquish their commissions and are granted the honorary rank of Major: County of London R.A.M.C.V.:—E. S. Tait, F. S. Barber, H. Webb, R. Chetham-Strode, R. M. H. Walford, J. S. Goodall, F. G. Parsons, A. Allport, Sir J. Collie, C.M.G., T. E. White, F. C. Langford, E. G. Annis (Captain T.F.Res.), A. J. Swallow, H. Jackson.

The following temporary Captains relinquish their commissions, and are granted the honorary rank of Captain:—Anglesey R.A.M.C.V.: G. L. Jones. City of Bristol R.A.M.C.V.: G. G. D. Willett. Cheshire R.A.M.C.V.: M. Young, H. L. Pearson. City of Dundee R.A.M.C.V.: D. J. Forbes. Durham R.A.M.C.V.: J. C. French. Essex R.A.M.C.V.: J. H. Salter. Gloucestershire R.A.M.C.V.: T. C. Leman. Kent R.A.M.C.V.: J. Richardson, H. Brown. Lancashire R.A.M.C.V.: J. M. Ferguson. Leicestershire R.A.M.C.V.: J. A. H. Barnes, J. M. Lithgow, J. R. Foulds. Lincolnshire R.A.M.C.V.: T. Anningson. City of London R.A.M.C.V.: D. McB. Greig, M. C. Sykes. County of London R.A.M.C.V.: F. J. Fielder, S. Peake, H. M. Wood, F. M. Turner, G. Pollock, E. E. Henderson, T. Wilson, R. E. T. Ingram, R. Lawson, H. J. Hillstead, J. Kennish, J. B. Wallace, H. J. Bumsted, C. T. Quiller, M. A. Farr, J. G. McWillie, W. J. Nolan, F. W. Warren, T. Pearson, H. Johnson, R. Ostlere, J. F. G. Bent. Norfolk R.A.M.C.V.: W. L. Cox, G. S. Keeling, L. H. B. Mills, F. Preston, A. Crook, C. B. Smith, W. J. E. Sumpter, C. W. Steel, R. Grant. Northumberland R.A.M.C.V.: J. G. Miller. Warwickshire R.A.M.C.V.: A. T. Holdsworth. West Riding R.A.M.C.V.: P. Macdonald. Worcestershire R.A.M.C.V.: H. E. Dixey, E. H. Alton, H. Smith.

The following temporary Lieutenants relinquish their commissions, and are granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant:—Buckinghamshire R.A.M.C.V.: H. Barrett, J. D. J. Harris, H. T. Wickham. Carnarvonshire R.A.M.C.V.: R. Rowland-Jones. Cheshire R.A.M.C.V.: L. C. A. Savatard, W. R. J. Garson, A. Banks, C. McA. Wilson, T. H. Smith, F. Cant. Derbyshire R.A.M.C.V.: S. J. Parkhill, W. A. Warters. Dorset R.A.M.C.V.: G. G. Morrice. City of Dundee R.A.M.C.V.: H. M. McHoul. Essex R.A.M.C.V.: G. F. Wilson, J. S. Brookfield. Gloucestershire R.A.M.C.V.: J. M. Martin. Hertfordshire R.A.M.C.V.: H. H. Thomson. Huntingdonshire R.A.M.C.V.: W. F. Fisher. Lancashire R.A.M.C.V.: R. C. Holt, J. Melvin, W. Stewart. Lincolnshire R.A.M.C.V.: R. Slocock, H. T. Benson. City of London R.A.M.C.V.: C. N. Foley. County of London R.A.M.C.V.: A. H. Gibbon, J. Norton, J. L. I. Moore H. McD. Parrott, J. S. Mackintosh, P. Dayian. Norfolk R.A.M.C.V.: L. P. Clements, J. T. Richards, S. W. M. Vyse, F. J. Emms, L. H. B. Miller, F. Preston, A. Crook. North Riding R.A.M.C.V.: J. Murray, J. C. B. Williams, and R. H. F. Bostock. Northumberland R.A.M.C.V.: J. M. MacLachlan. Nottinghamshire R.A.M.C.V.: A. Fulton and J. D. Willis. Somerset R.A.M.C.V.: J. M. H. Munro. Staffordshire R.A.M.C.V.: W. R. Somerset. Sussex R.A.M.C.V.: E. FitzG. Frazer. Warwickshire R.A.M.C.V.: M. H. C. Atkinson and H. H. H. Addenbrooke. West Riding R.A.M.C.V.: K. H. Beverley and T. Chetwood.

Northumberland R.A.M.C.(V.)—The surname of honorary Lieutenant H. S. Crace is as now described, and not as stated in the *London Gazette* of January 19th, 1920.

QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS.

Auxiliary Section, R.A.M.C. attached.—The following relinquish their appointments: *Medical Officials:* R. E. Proctor, M.D., and A. F. Nash, M.B., F.R.C.S. *Recruiting Medical Controller:* C. A. F. Sturm, M.D.

INSURANCE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Profession and Arbitration.

SIR,—I have read with dismay and disgust, which I imagine will be shared by many of the profession, the letter in your issue of February 7th by Dr. Thomas Wright, in which he advocates repudiation by the profession of the action of its properly elected representatives in the event of their full demands not being conceded by the arbitrators.

The representatives of the profession have acted throughout in accordance with the instructions given to them by the Panel Committees, which are the elected representatives of the panel practitioners as a whole, and to repudiate their undertakings would not only be an extreme dishonour to the profession, but would brand it at once as being on the same footing of morality and social and political intelligence as the least instructed trade unions, whose abrogation on recent occasions of contracts entered into after due consideration Dr. Wright would, I am confident, be eager to condemn.

It is agreed by all students that the highest development of the politico-social sense of peoples is shown by their readiness to accept loyally undertakings made by their accredited representatives, and it should be the endeavour of a learned and noble profession like our own in no way to fall short of this highest standard of political wisdom and conscience, and to spurn anarchy under whatever specious disguise it may present itself.

I urge, Sir, that it is our duty to abide faithfully by the decision of the arbitrators, whether that be for 13s. 6d., or 11s., or less, and to render to the insured persons under our care the best services of which we are capable on all occasions; for such is the only course consistent with honour, and, moreover, is the only method by which we can maintain in ourselves a high and advancing standard of professional ability, and by so doing construct a bulwark against a whole-time salaried State service, which is the alternative to the panel system, and is urged by eloquent and honest—though, I hold, misguided—reformers in many quarters.—I am, etc.,

A. E. HODDER,
Chairman, Mid-Staffs Division, British Medical Association.

Stafford, Feb. 8th.

Remuneration and Rural Practice.

SIR,—Are panel practitioners as a body trying to arrive at an equitable arrangement with the Government? It is my belief that if this were the object in view a reasonable settlement would have been reached long ago. Can we expect any Government to grant a capitation fee of 13s. 6d. regardless of circumstances? Why do doctors refuse a limitation of numbers on a panel? Can anyone argue that it is reasonable to pay a doctor £3,370 per annum, if he has 5,000 on his panel, and still allow him to further increase his income by private practice, etc.

On the other hand, is it reasonable to expect any doctor to be satisfied that he is adequately paid if at the same rate he receives £540 for attending 800 panel patients *plus*, say, 10 per cent. mileage, making £594 per annum in a sparsely populated district where travelling expenses absorb half this amount and the loss of time is considerable? Again, in densely populated districts the doctor can, as a rule, hand over a patient who is dangerously ill to the care of a hospital, and he has no further trouble or anxiety, whereas the rural practitioner has to attend all such cases from start to finish, operating upon his appendix patients, strangulated hernias, and all the rest of it.

Surely the equitable way of dealing with the question is to take into consideration what the doctors' duties are, what are the conditions of his locality, and what the density of the population, and so estimate what is a fair week's work for him, and arrange both the limitation of his panel and the scale of remuneration accordingly.

In estimating the number of hours constituting a fair week's work for a doctor, regard should be paid to the irregularity of his hours and the fact that no hour in the day or night can be called his own. A reasonable week's work might be fixed at forty-four hours. If a reasonable net income be considered to be £1,000 a year, and he has to work sixty-six hours a week, he should be entitled to receive:

1 year at 44 hours a week	£1,000
Plus 22 hours a week overtime (double rate) ...	1,000
Practice expenses, say	700
Total gross income	£2,700

Now, in my county the average panel is less than 800, and in my district considerably below this figure, the density of population being about 1 to 4 acres. I know not what is the average panel in a densely populated district; but assuming that it should be rather less than 3,000, and assuming also that in such a district 50 per cent. of a doctor's work is panel practice, and that in my district 25 per cent. of a doctor's work is panel practice, then in the densely populated district the panel should be limited to 3,000, and a doctor with a full panel should be paid 50 per cent. of £2,700—that is, £1,350—that is, at a rate of 9s. a head; while in a district such as this a panel practice should be limited to 800, and a doctor with a full panel should be paid 25 per cent. of £2,700—that is, £675—that is, at a rate of 16s. 10d. per head. Other districts should be graded according to density of population. If 9s. a head is too low a figure, both that and the 16s. 10d. should be raised proportionately.

In my opinion panel practice in the country from the business point of view is not worth touching for itself, but one has to take it as a part of the country conditions. The special allowance of £300,000 for mileage, which is to compensate the country doctor for increased travelling expenses and *loss of time*, does not touch the question; should the unit be valued at 2s. 6d. it would not benefit me to the extent of 10 per cent.

The rural practitioner's position has never been sufficiently represented, and the reason is obvious—we are a negligible minority and cannot be adequately represented on executive committees, etc., for the very reason that we are rural practitioners. I am on a Panel Committee, but when attending meetings I have to travel fifty-six miles at a cost of about 28s. a time and the loss of nearly three-quarters of a day's work.—I am, etc.,

H. U. GOULD.

Shaftesbury, Feb. 8th.

The New Regulations in Rural Practice.

SIR,—As one whose practice is partly urban and partly rural, I feel that the proposed Regulations have been strangely ignored in favour of the relatively less important capitation fee.

For myself, and I know I am also saying what most rural men would endorse, I feel that the Regulations will prove absolutely unworkable in a country practice. The points I particularly wish to draw attention to are:

1. That as the Regulations stand there is no obligation for messages to be delivered as early as possible. Rural men will appreciate the absolute impossibility of attending

British Medical Association.

OFFICES AND LIBRARY, 429, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

Reference and Lending Library.

THE READING ROOM, in which books of reference, periodicals, and standard works can be consulted, is open to members from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 to 1.

LENDING LIBRARY: Members are entitled to borrow books, including current medical works; they will be forwarded, if desired, on an application to the Librarian, accompanied by 6d. for postage.

Departments.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS (Financial Secretary and Business Manager. Telegrams: Articulate, Westrand, London. Tel.: Gerrard 2630).

MEDICAL SECRETARY (Telegrams: Medisecra, Westrand, London. Tel.: Gerrard 2634).

EDITOR, *British Medical Journal* (Telegrams: Aitiology, Westrand, London. Tel.: Gerrard 2631).

SCOTTISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh. (Telegrams: Associate, Edinburgh. Tel.: 4361 Central.)

IRISH MEDICAL SECRETARY: 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin. (Telegrams: Bacillus, Dublin. Tel.: 4737 Dublin.)

Diary of the Association.

FEBRUARY.

13 Fri. London: Ministry of Health Committee, 3 p.m.
17 Tues. London: Scrutiny Subcommittee, 2.30 p.m.
18 Wed. London: **Council**, 10 a.m.
19 Thur. London: Dominions Committee, 2.30 p.m.
London: Territorial Force Subcommittee, 4 p.m.
20 Fri. North of England Branch, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1-5.15 p.m., Demonstrations (see Post-Graduate Courses).
27 Fri. Edinburgh Branch, Clinical Meeting, Royal Infirmary: Museum open 11 a.m.; Special Clinics during forenoon. Clinical Meeting, 3.15 p.m. Address by Dr. A. Blackhall-Morison: The Passive Mechanical Factor in Heart Disease: its Influence and Management, 5 p.m. Dinner, 6.30 p.m.

to a scattered country district, if they have to go twice a day to the same part of their district, especially when the second journey could have been avoided by a little earlier message being sent.

2. The question of the patient being apparently the judge as to the urgency or not of the case. I feel strongly that we should be safeguarded by some regulation about vexatious and unnecessary calls. We, if we do not go, are to pay for another man, if he can be found, to do the work. The patient, on the other hand, if he sends unnecessarily or late, is not to be penalized.

3. The hardship of having to undertake, apparently under penalty, other men's work.

In cases of emergency, in the past, we have always attended a *real* emergency if the patient's own doctor is out. True, we are to be paid by the unfortunate doctor whose patient we attend, but I object strongly to having to throw over my own work for the purpose.

Dr. Addison, I see, tells the public the panel patient is to have the same attention as a private patient. I do not know of any doctor who undertakes for his private patients to attend them whenever they send in to him, for any trivial trouble, for trouble which could have been notified to him days before, to go at all hours of the day or night, and to pay another man if he cannot go himself.

I feel strongly that the rural men, being in a minority in most Divisions of the Association, have not been sufficiently consulted, or they would never consent to accept Regulations which they know are unworkable and which can only cause unpleasantness and friction and which, if accepted, will most certainly not tend to cause a contented service.—I am, etc.,

Monmouth, Feb. 7th. P. G. HARVEY, M.D.Lond.

*** We have referred this letter to the Medical Secretary, who suggests that Dr. Harvey's complaint as to insufficient consultation should be put before his Panel Committee. The Insurance Acts Committee kept these bodies fully informed of every move with regard to the Regulations, and it did not appear at the Conference in November last that representatives were ill informed as to the effect of the Regulations. Dr. Cox adds that the representatives who may be regarded as especially rural were well in evidence during the discussions, and all Dr. Harvey's points were thrashed out.

Transfer of Practices.

SIR,—We must now clearly envisage the present position in regard to this all-important matter. The Minister refuses all amendments, however moderate and equitable, and insists upon the clause abolishing the capital value of practices. In these circumstances it is the clear duty of the profession to proceed, through its representatives, to press the claim for compensation for the loss of the capital value of the practices of all those now on the panels, and who shall still be on the panels at the end of 1922, when their right of transfer ceases. Those, of course, who exercise their right to sell between now and 1922 will have no claim for compensation.

Meanwhile the profession should loyally accept the capitation award of the arbitrators, and diligently set about carrying out the new Regulations efficiently and honourably. But no step must be omitted that can legitimately be taken to establish this vital principle of compensation—the greatest matter of principle that has arisen since the Insurance Acts were passed.

As a first step in our constitutional struggle for our rights, I would suggest a representative deputation to the Prime Minister, to remind him of his speeches of 1912 and 1913, and the fair prospects then held out to us; and to call his attention to the manner in which it is proposed to fulfil those expectations.

Then every endeavour should be made to bring our case before Members of Parliament, with a view to amendment of Clause 16, when the Regulations are before Parliament.

Finally, appeals should be made to the sense of fair play of the public by making them acquainted, through the press, with the magnitude of the financial loss and the deprivation of legal rights with which we are threatened.

It is hard to conceive why these hardships should be inflicted upon a hard-working section of the community, who carried on under many and serious difficulties during the war and loyally refrained from embarrassing the Government by pressing their just claims until after peace was declared. Surely they have deserved better treatment at the end than to be given an increased capitation fee with one hand while being robbed of their capital with the other.—I am, etc.,

Gloucester, Feb. 7th. J. A. BELL.

BATH INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Bath Insurance Committee the following resolution was adopted unanimously and forwarded to the Ministry of Health:

That this Committee protests against the action of the Ministry in refusing after 1922 to allow insured persons on the lists of deceased practitioners automatically to be included in the lists of their successors, unless notice is given by the insured persons to the contrary in accordance with the existing provisions of the Medical Benefit Regulations.

APPOINTMENTS.

BROWN, A. Middleton, M.D.Aberd., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health, City of Chester.

FENTON, James, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health for the Royal Borough of Kensington.

MCMICHAEL, G. V. T., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.Edin., Medical Officer of Health for Paisley.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.—Pathologist: G. S. Williamson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B. Assistant Physician: Hazell Haward Chodak, M.D., M.R.C.P.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES.

LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, E.—Friday, 4 p.m., Schorstein Memorial Lecture by Sir Archibald E. Garrod, K.C.M.G.: Diagnosis of Disease of the Pancreas.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Monday, 9 p.m., Second Lettsomian Lecture by Dr. Herbert R. Spencer on Tumours complicating Pregnancy, Labour, and the Puerperium; II, Ovarian Tumours.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.—Monday and Wednesday, 5 p.m., Professor W. G. Spencer: Historical Relationship between Experiments on Animals and the Development of Surgery.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—General Meeting of Fellows, Tuesday, 5 p.m., to consider proposal to constitute a Section of Urology. *Section of Therapeutics and Pharmacology:* Tuesday, 4.30 p.m., Discussion on the Value of Alcohol as a Therapeutic Agent, to be opened by Dr. H. H. Dale, and continued by Dr. A. P. Beddard, Dr. Langdon Brown, Sir William Hale-White, Dr. R. Hutchison, Dr. O. Leyton, Dr. E. Mellanby, Professor R. B. Wild, and Dr. W. H. Willcox. *Section of Pathology:* Pathological Laboratory, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.1, Tuesday, 8.30 p.m. *Section of History of Medicine:* Wednesday, 5 p.m., Dr. R. C. Buist: The Salernitan Verses and their English Versions. *Section of Dermatology:* Thursday, 4.30 p.m., Cases. *Section of Otology:* Friday, 5 p.m., Cases and Specimens.

SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE, 11, Chandos Street, W.1.—Friday, 8.30 p.m., Discussion on Small-Pox, to be opened by Colonel W. G. King, C.I.E., I.M.S. (retired). Lieutenant-Colonel N. Hamilton Fairley, A.A.M.C., and Captain H. R. Dew, R.A.M.C.: Causes of Death from Malaria in Palestine: a Study in Cellular Pathology.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES AND LECTURES.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, North of England Branch, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Friday, Demonstrations; 1 p.m. onwards, Pathological Museum; 2.30 p.m., Mr. A. M. Martin: Forms of Paralysis and their Treatment; 3 p.m., Dr. George Hall: Paralyses in Children; 3.30 p.m., Professor Stuart MacDonald: Pathology of Ulcerative Endocarditis; 4.15 p.m., Mr. R. J. Willan: Renal Tuberculosis; 4.45 p.m., Mr. C. F. M. Saint: Abdominal Injuries, with special reference to the Spleen.

BROMPTON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION, S.W.—Wednesday, 4.30 p.m., Dr. Hartley: Pneumothorax.

CHELSEA CLINICAL SOCIETY, Club Room, St. George's Hospital, S.W.—Tuesday, 8.30 p.m., Clinical Demonstration. Cases and Specimens.

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—12 noon:—Monday, Mr. D. W. Roy: Prolapse and its Treatment; Tuesday, Dr. F. J. Poynton: Aortic and Mitral Disease of Rheumatic Origin; Wednesday, Mr. G. E. Waugh: Appendicitis in Children; Thursday, Mr. J. F. O'Malley: Indications for Removal of Tonsils and Adenoids.

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Tuesday, 4.30 p.m., Dr. C. H. Melland: Polio-encephalitis and Lethargic Encephalitis.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC, Queen Square, W.C.—Monday, 2 p.m., Dr. Collier: Out-patients; 3.30 p.m., Mr. Paton: Optic Atrophy. Tuesday, 2 p.m., Dr. Grainger Stewart: Out-patients; 3.30 p.m., Dr. James Taylor: Wards. Wednesday, 2 p.m., Mr. Armour: Cerebral Tumours; 3.30 p.m., Dr. Grainger Stewart: Disseminated Sclerosis. Thursday, 2 p.m., Dr. Farquhar Buzzard: Out patients; 3.30 p.m., Intracranial Tumours. Friday, 2 p.m., Dr. Gordon Holmes: Out-patients; 3.30 p.m., Dr. Collier: Wards. Saturday, 9 a.m., Surgical Operations.

NORTH-EAST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, N.15.—Tuesday, 2 p.m., Mr. Howell Evans: Demonstration of Cases illustrating Diseases of the Breast; 4.30 p.m., Dr. Metcalfe (lantern lecture): Examination of Diseases of Digestive Tract.

SALFORD ROYAL HOSPITAL.—Thursday, 4 p.m., Mr. Ollerenshaw: Common Injuries and their Treatment, from an Orthopaedic point of view.

SHEFFIELD ROYAL HOSPITAL.—Monday, 3.30 p.m., Dr. Nutt: X-ray Examination of Thorax. Tuesday, 4 p.m., Dr. Hay: Diseases of Iris and Ciliary Body. Wednesday, 3.30 p.m., Dr. Wilkinson: Common Laryngeal Ailments. Thursday, 3.30 p.m., Dr. Skinner: Seborrhoea, Alopecia, etc. Friday, 4 p.m., Dr. Hay: Diseases of Lens, Glaucoma.

WEST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COLLEGE, Hammersmith, W.—Saturday (February 14th), noon, Mr. Souttar: Surgical Anatomy of the Abdomen. Monday, 5 p.m., Mr. MacDonald: Tuberculous Disease of Urinary Tract. Tuesday, 5 p.m., Dr. Burnford: Clinical Lecture, with Cases. Wednesday, 5 p.m., Dr. Beddard: Practical Medicine (Lecture 2). Thursday, noon, Mr. Sinclair: Surgical Demonstration. Friday, 5 p.m., Dr. A. C. Jordan: Radiography of Chronic Intestinal Stasis.

Printed and published by the British Medical Association at their Office, No. 429, Strand, in the Parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the County of London.